



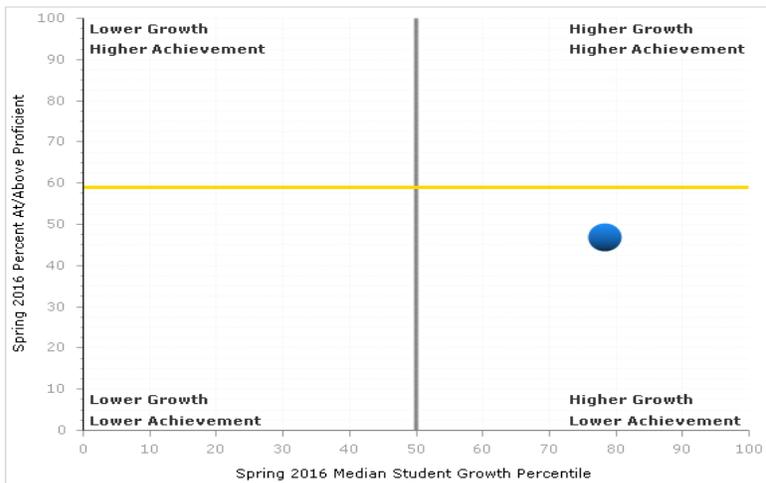
INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

TO: Indiana State Board of Education
FROM: Alicia Kielmovitch, Director of Policy and Legislation
RE: Immediate Freeway Accreditation for Shepherd Academy
DATE: June 26, 2017

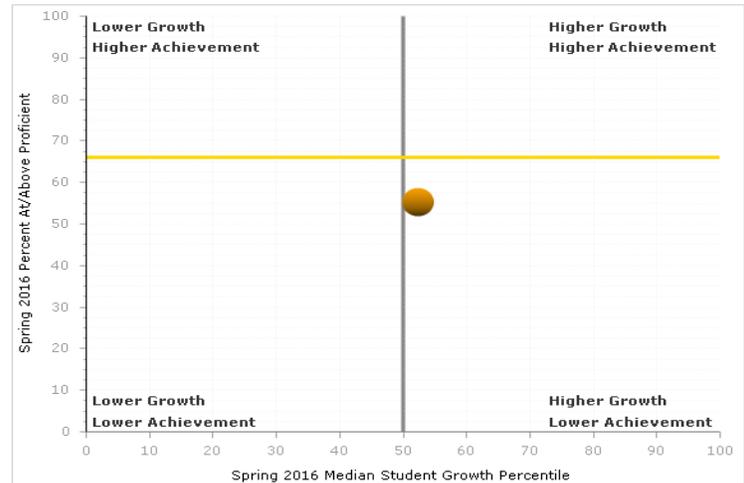
Recommendation: Approve five-year freeway accreditation contract beginning 2017-18.

Issue Summary: Shepherd Academy is interested in obtaining accreditation through the freeway provision. It is petitioning the Board to issue immediate freeway accreditation beginning in 2017-18. HEA 1384 authorizes the State Board to issue immediate freeway accreditation to a school, which permits it to access choice funding in year one, if it so chooses, and to waive some statutes and regulations through its contract.

Rationale: Based on their current accountability report, Shepherd's students are higher than the state's average in growth. In both ELA and math, Shepherd's growth was higher than the 100 overall growth points in the accountability model. In math, Shepherd scored 130.7 points for overall growth, above the state average of 98 points. In ELA, Shepherd scored 102.7 overall growth, above the state average of 97.9 points. The charts below from Shepherd's growth report¹ demonstrates the correlation between the school's proficiency and growth:



2015-16 Math



2015-16 ELA

Shepherd's students are performing below the state average: in math, 45.7% of students passed the ISTEP; and in English Language Arts, 54.3% passed. Its current accountability grade is an F; however, this is based solely on their proficiency data. The growth points were unable to be incorporated into their accountability grade due to a small N size and a low number of students lacking previous data.

¹ <https://learningconnection.doe.in.gov/GrowthModel/GrowthChart.aspx?cid=950&sid=3172&ay=2015&sem=1&st=2>



INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Shepherd's IREAD-3 passage rates have been near the state average over the past three years. For 2017, 19 students (86.4%) have passed the IREAD-3 prior to the summer testing, which is near the state average of 89.8%. Shepherd's overall attendance is 93.9% of students for 2015-16.

Shepherd serves high-needs student populations - 95% qualify for free or reduced lunch and 50% is English Learners. Immediate accreditation will allow Shepherd to continue to build upon its record of success without losing eligibility to participate in the choice scholarship program or scholarship granting organizations.

Background on Shepherd: Shepherd Academy is part of the larger Shepherd Community Center, which has been in Indianapolis for over 30 years. The Shepherd Community Center provides wraparound services for students and families in the 42601 and 42603 zip codes. Services range from birth to college, from home visits to afterschool programs. It is affiliated with the Church of the Nazarene and has strong ties to its neighborhood and community. Shepherd Academy began as a preschool program. Four years ago, the school entered into a formal partnership with Horizon Christian School and added grades for K thru 5. Shepherd is seeking freeway accreditation as an independent school in order to maximize site-based decision making and resource allocation in order to meet the unique needs of its student population.

Shepherd is seeking separate accreditation through freeway accreditation for two reasons:

1. Students require focused strategies to address their needs. Shepherd has large English Learner and low-income student populations. Shepherd would like to pursue strategies and solutions to better serve these student populations and their communities. Two examples of potential strategies is increasing its parental engagement and support and partnering with Marian University regarding professional development on how Shepherd can better link curriculum and instructional practices to improve student outcomes in an urban setting with a significant English Learner population.
2. Autonomy over and flexibility with funding to implement strategies. In order to pursue these new strategies, Shepherd wants to receive tuition support directly, which would allow for greater flexibility with these monies. With autonomy over its funding, Shepherd hopes to center its decisions closer to its students.



INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Appendix – Shepherd Community School Data

Academic achievement data:

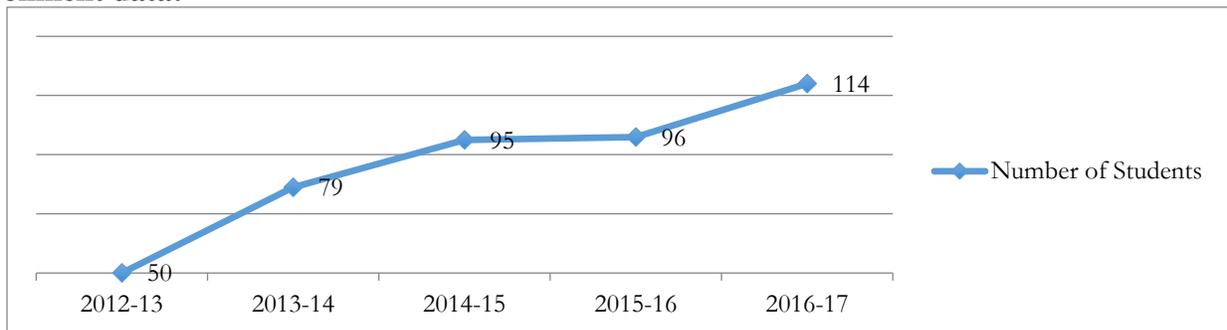
	Grade	ISTEP Proficiency (overall)		ISTEP Growth (overall)		IREAD-3
		Math	ELA	Math	ELA	
2014-15	B	Data held harmless				100% passage
2015-16	F*	45.7% passage	54.3% passage	130.7 points for Overall Growth	102.7 points for Overall Growth	88.9% passage
2016-17	N/A					86.4% passage

*Letter grade is based solely on proficiency. Growth was not calculated into the grade due to an insufficient N size.

ISTEP Proficiency deep dive:

	Proficiency Overall	ELA Proficiency Overall	Math Proficiency Overall	Science Proficiency Overall
2014-15	46.7% (14 student) passage	56.7% (17 students) passage	53.3% (16 students) passage	Suppressed
2015-16	33.3% (11 students) passage	55.6% (20 students) passage	47.2% (17 students) passage	21.4% (3 students) passage

Enrollment data:



Current demographics of students:

- Hispanic – 87 students (76.3%)
- Black – 11 students (9.6%)
- White – 9 students (7.9%)
- Multiracial – 7 students (6.1%)
- Free/reduced lunch students – 109 students (95.6%)
- English Learner – 57 students (50%)
- Students with Disabilities – 4 students (3.5%)



INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Attendance by grade:

Grade	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Kindergarten	95.7%	95.9%	93.3%	92.7%
Grade 1	95.8%	98.0%	94.8%	90.9%
Grade 2		98.0%	96.0%	94.1%
Grade 3		94.6%	96.1%	96.1%
Grade 4		Suppressed	Suppressed	95.9%
Grade 5			Suppressed	Suppressed
All Grades	95.7%	96.7%	94.8%	93.9%